



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Ralph Willard Imlay Papers, 1933-1984 and undated

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Ralph Willard Imlay Papers
Identifier:	Record Unit 7380
Date:	1933-1984 and undated
Extent:	2 cu. ft. (2 record storage boxes)
Creator::	Imlay, Ralph W. (Ralph Willard), 1908-1989
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7380, Ralph Willard Imlay Papers

Historical Note

Ralph Willard Imlay (1908-1989) was a paleontologist and authority on North American Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous invertebrate fauna. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1933. In 1940, Imlay joined the staff of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) as a Geologist. He remained with the USGS until his retirement in 1970. Imlay was a Research Associate in the Department of Paleobiology, National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), from 1967 until his death.

During his USGS career, Imlay conducted extensive field research in the western United States, Alaska, and Mexico where he collected many of the Jurassic fossils in the NMNH collection. He served as President of the Paleontological Society during 1964-1965.

Introduction

This finding aid was digitized with funds generously provided by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee.

Descriptive Entry

This collection consists mostly of correspondence documenting Ralph Willard Imlay's work at the USGS and the Department of Paleobiology, NMNH, and his research on invertebrate paleontology. The correspondence is with USGS, domestic, and foreign colleagues and concerns the identification of

specimens, field work, publication of scientific papers, and professional matters. Also included are notes, lists, and illustrations from his research.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Paleontologists
Paleontology

Types of Materials:

Black-and-white photographs
Color photographs
Manuscripts
Picture postcards
Scientific illustrations

Names:

Geological Survey (U.S.)
Imlay, Ralph W. (Ralph Willard), 1908-1989
National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Department of Paleobiology
Paleontological Society
University of Michigan

Container Listing

Box 1

- Box 1 of 2 Folders 1-7 Correspondence, A-G
- Box 1 of 2 Folder 8 Correspondence, Geologic Names and Correlations Committee
- Box 1 of 2 Folder 9 Correspondence, Geological Society of America
- Box 1 of 2 Folder 10 Correspondence, H
- Box 1 of 2 Folder 11 Correspondence, Roy T. Hazzard
- Box 1 of 2 Folder 12 Correspondence, Hollis D. Hedberg
- Box 1 of 2 Folders 13-15 Correspondence, J-L
- Box 1 of 2 Folders 16-17 Correspondence, M
- Box 1 of 2 Folder 18 Correspondence, Mc
- Box 1 of 2 Folders 19-25 Correspondence, N, P, R-T, V-Z
- Box 1 of 2 Folder 26 Correspondence, Miscellaneous Incoming and Outgoing

Box 2

- Box 2 of 2 Folders 1-4 Reading File, 1945-1962
- Box 2 of 2 Folder 5 Notes and Lists on Twin Creek Limestone
- Box 2 of 2 Folders 6-7 Notes and Lists on Paleontology
- Box 2 of 2 Folder 8 Specimen Determinations
- Box 2 of 2 Folder 9 Sample of Scientific Illustrations Used in Imlay's Paleontological Publications